



Minutes of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission

**Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 203
320 S. Main St.
Jefferson, WI 53549**

Monday, July 9, 2012 12:30 pm

Members: Margaret Burlingham (Chairperson), Amy Rinard (Vice-Chairperson), Mariah Hadler (Secretary), Steve Nass and Blane Poulson.

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Burlingham at 12:35 pm.
2. Roll Call
Commission members present included Burlingham, Rinard, John Molinaro (ex-officio) and Hadler. Nass and Poulson were absent. County staff present was Michelle Staff, Zoning Department.
3. Certification of Compliance With Open Meetings Law Requirements
Burlingham and Staff verified that the meeting was being held in compliance with open meetings law requirements.
4. Review of Agenda
No changes to the agenda.
5. Public Comment
No public comment.
6. Communications
Molinaro stated that he received an e-mail from Sue Marx inviting the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission to the Farm Bureau meeting on July 25th, 2012 at the FS office. Burlingham stated that she will attend the meeting.

The Farmland Commission Easement Commission received an invitation to the Brooks Family Farm two miles south of Waupaca off Hwy 10 on County Hwy A for an August 11 celebration of the statewide progress on the PACE program including all PACE farm families, cooperating entities, and other state and local program supporters.

The Jefferson County Fair is July 11- July 15 and the Commission discussed that a display will be present with the brochure. Staff indicated that if the Commission would like to change the brochure, this would be the time because we need to print more. The Commission made a couple of changes to the brochure and Hadler will e-mail the revised version to Staff to get it printed.

7. Review & Approval of the June 11, 2012 minutes

Motion made by Hadler, seconded by Rinard to approve the June 11, 2012 minutes. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.

8. NRCS/Federal Update on Conservation Easements
The County received the reimbursement monies for the Lea easement. The senate passed the farm bill and now it will move on to congress.
9. Discussion on State of Wisconsin's PACE Program Report
Burlingham stated that there was an article in the Country Today about the status of the State PACE program. In addition, the State completed a report that was presented to the legislature with options about funding this type of program. The next step would be for the state legislature to reinstate funding for the program. The Commission discussed that at that time they will support the bill and send letters to the appropriate legislators.
10. Discussion on Timothy Hunn, Town of Aztalan
This item will be removed until additional action is required.
11. Discussion and Possible Action on 2011 PACE Applications
Dale Neupert, Jeffrey & Monica Gerner and Greg Wilke.
NRCS has indicated that they are willing to fund Neupert and Gerner. NRCS would like to fund Wilkes but would need additional funding left over from other states and is not sure at this time whether that will become available. The County has not received the confirmation letter yet for funding of any of the three properties. The Commission discussed that title searches should be conducted early in the process as not to have problems with closing at a later date. Motion by Hadler, seconded by Rinard, to do the title searches for all three 2011 PACE application properties after the County has received the confirmation letter. Motion passed on the voice vote with no objection.
12. Revise the Commission's Overall Strategy/Work Plan for 2012 and 2013
The Commission discussed more preparations for the County Fair next week. The Commission discussed whether they should have an application period. It was mentioned that after the purchase of the 2011 applications there will be no more matching funding from the County to apply for the NRCS grants. It was discussed that landowners can donate easements and the state may again fund the program.
13. Future Meeting Dates
Burlingham has conflicts with meeting dates in September and October but will discuss it at the August meeting when all members are present.
14. Suggestions for the Next Agenda
No additional suggestions were made for agenda items.
15. Adjourn
Motion by Hadler, seconded by Rinard to adjourn the meeting at 1:26 p.m. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Minutes by Michelle Staff, Zoning Technician, Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department